Atty Dkt No. TPL 0134 PUS

S/N: 10/774,807

Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in

the application:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle closure hinge comprising:

a mount including a pivot axis flange;

a pivot link;

a pivot coupling said pivot link to said axis flange;

a spring comprising a strand with a laterally coiled strand portion extending

from a first coil end to a second coil end, said strand having a first strand end at said first coil

end and a second strand end with a longitudinally extended portion extending from a second

coil end along a longitudinal direction of said [[coil]] coiled strand portion to a position at said

first coil end, wherein said first and second strand ends bias said link and said mount at said

first coil end.

2. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said

longitudinally extended portion is positioned within said [[coil]] coiled strand portion.

3. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said

longitudinally extended portion is coaxial with said [[coil]] coiled strand portion.

4. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said first

strand end and said second strand end terminate at a substantially coplanar position.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said

first and second strand ends include radially extending arm portions.

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7. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of said arm portions has a terminal portion pivotally secured to one of said pivot link and said

mount.

8. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein both

said first and second strand ends include radially extending arm portions having terminal

portions, a first of said terminal portions being pivotally secured about a first spring arm axis

to said pivot link, and a second of said terminal portions being pivotally secured about a second

spring arm axis to said mount.

9. (original) The invention as defined in claim 8 wherein said first

spring arm axis and said second spring arm axis are spaced from and parallel to the axis of said

pivot axis flange.

10. (currently amended) A method for spring biasing a vehicle closure

hinge comprising:

mounting a pivot axis flange on a compartment bordering structure;

aligning a pivot link carried by the vehicle closure adjacent said pivot axis

flange;

coupling said pivot link to said pivot axis flange;

biasing said pivot link about said pivot axis with a spring having a laterally

coiled strand spring portion extending from a first coil [[and]] end to a second coil end, said

strand spring having a first strand end at said first coil end, and a second[[,]] strand end

portion extending from said second coil end along a longitudinal direction of said [[coil]] coiled

strand portion to a position at said first coil end, wherein said biasing acts about said pivot axis

at said first coil end.

11. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said biasing

includes aligning said second strand end portion through said coil.

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Claims 12-20 (canceled)